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MINUTES

OF THE

EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE A

Committee of the Houſe of Commons,

BEING

A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE,

Appointed to conſider of the ſeveral Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Miſdemeanors, preſented to the Houſe againſt Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

PART II.

LONDON:

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M.DCC.LXXXVI.

MINUTES, &c.

Lunæ, 8° die Maij, 1786.

Committee of the Whole Houſe on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Miſdemeanors, preſented to the Houſe againſt Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

To the State and Condition of the Province of Oude, and its Dependencies.

MAJOR Marſack called in and examined.

In your evidence given on Friday laſt, you ſpoke of a claim of a private nature, and which originated in Bengal, on part of which your attorney proſecuted ſince you left the country, and recovered; and from whoſe ſuggeſtions, arrived by the laſt advices, it occurred to you to make your claims on Mr. Haſtings and others.—You will ſay, Whether Mr. Haſtings was concerned, directly or indirectly, in the matter for which you recovered a ſum of money; and whether the money which you or your attorney did recover, was not on account of intereſt for a principal ſum due from the Nabob Vizier, in which Mr. Haſtings had no concern; and whether it exceeded the ſum of 7,000 rupees?

Then the witneſs being directed to withdraw,

The putting the ſaid queſtion to the witneſs was agreed by the Committee to be waved for the preſent.

And the witneſs being again called in,

He was aſked,

Whether, after the Nabob of Oude had complained of the ſtrong recommendations which came from Calcutta, for the reſtoration of Colonel Hannay, he was again reſtored to the collection of Baraich and Boorapoor?

I beg leave to ſubmit to the Committee, the ſituation in which I now ſtand as a witneſs at this bar—I have not courted it as an evidence.—

And then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

The Chairman informed him, That it was the pleaſure of the Committee, that he ſhould now proceed to anſwer the queſtion put to him.

Then the queſtion being repeated,

The witneſs ſaid,

I did not poſitively aver that it came from Calcutta, but I ſuppoſe it came from thence, from what the Nabob ſaid, that it was a letter that came from the Burra Saheb, which is generally underſtood to be the Governor; and that it was generally underſtood at Lucknow, that it was in conſequence of the Nabob's being urged by the Governor, that he was reinſtated in his command.

How long did he remain after he was ſo reinſtated?

I cannot exactly ſay; but it was a conſiderable time.

Did you hear that the diſcontents of the country ceaſed on his re-appointment?

I did not; but always underſtood them to be conſiderably increaſed.

Did you underſtand that any remiſſion of revenue was granted during Colonel Hannay's holding that farm?

I did.

To what amount?

I cannot exactly ſay—but I have heard that he obtained, at different periods, very conſiderable deductions.

And then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

The anſwer to the laſt queſtion was read to the witneſs, to which he added,

That it was a generally received opinion of every one on the ſpot.

Are you well acquainted with the perſon of the Nabob of Oude, his brothers, uncles, and neareſt relations?

I have been acquainted with them from very early in the year 1770, to the time I left the country in the year 1782.

Whether the opulence and ſplendour of the Nabob's court has increaſed or declined during that period?

It is very well known that is declined to a mere ſhadow—nothing at all.

Whether it was a ſplendid and opulent court in the time of the late Sujah Dowlah?

It certainly was—his wives and children were maintained in great affluence and ſplendour; and he ſupported, excluſive of his civil eſtabliſhment, the expence of which has been

been eſtimated at about £. 400,000 per annum, a very numerous ſtanding army of 20,000 horſe, twenty battalions of regular infantry, armed, clothed, and diſciplined after the European manner, together with about 20,000 irregulars, or matchlock men, called Nejibs and Sabutcaunies (ſo called from Sabut Caun, the firſt founder of that eſtabliſhment); to which I muſt add, the expence of a conſiderable train of artillery; and all this he did previous to the acceſſion of territory which he acquired in Rohilcund and the Duabe, and which his ſon the preſent Vizier now poſſeſſes.

In what condition are the Nabob's brothers, who are out of the Zenana maintained?

All the Nabob's brothers and ſiſters are by other wives of the late Sujah Dowlah—the eldeſt, Sâdut Ali, uſually reſides at Benares, under the protection of the Engliſh, with a revenue of £. 30,000 per annum, or thereabouts, which he receives from the Vizier his brother: The next ſon of Sujah Dowlah, Meer Mirza Jungly, not being able to live upon the ſmall ſtipend his brother the Vizier allowed him, privately left his court, and threw himſelf upon the generoſity of Nudjiff Cawn, at Delhi—there I ſaw him about the middle of the year 1780: Nabob Behadre, another ſon of Sujah Dowlah, I left at Lucknow in very great indigence. In ſhort, the children of Sujah Dowlah, brought up within the walls of his ſeraglio, as ſoon as ever they arrived at the age of thinking for themſelves, have all endeavoured to make their eſcape, and to ſeek for that ſupport from other princes which the preſent reſources of their brother would not admit of his giving them.—In regard to the other relations, his uncles Mirza Ally Cawn and Nabob Salar Jung, they derived grants of Jaghires from the late Sujah Dowlah, to whom their ſiſter was married, and who goes by the name of the Bow Begum.—Mirza Ally Cawn died before the Jaghires were taken from them; but his children, as well as the other brother, Nabob Salar Jung, are much reduced in their circumſtances, and were loud in their complaints againſt the miniſter, Hyder Beg Cawn, whoſe connections with the Engliſh government at the court of Oude had brought the Nabob's finances into ſuch a ſituation as to render him unable to ſatisfy the demands of the Engliſh by any other means than that of ſeizing on their eſtate and property. The Begums, that is to ſay, the mother and wife of the late Sujah Dowlah, originally derived their grants of Jaghires by way of ſettlement; as it is uſual in the princes of the Eaſt to make ſuch proviſion for the expences of the houſehold and retinue of their wives, independent of their own houſehold eſtabliſhment, and which it is deemed highly diſhonourable, on any occaſion, afterwards to interfere in: Such

grants are always held ſacred by them.—As it is not in the power of women to manage thoſe eſtates, they uſually employ eunuchs for that purpoſe; which eunuchs generally attaching themſelves from their infancy to the fortunes of their miſtreſſes, they are, on all occaſions, entruſted with their confidence.—Such was the ſituation of the two eunuchs, Jewar and Behar Ali Cawn.

Whether the Jaghires, or landed eſtates, of ſeveral other perſons, were not ſeized upon at the ſame time?

On or about the ſame time.

Were there a great number of them, or only a few?

There were a great many civil and military officers.

Were they perſons moſtly of conſiderable rank and conſequence?

No; they were not of that conſiderable rank and conſequence that I have mentioned. There were ſome that were diſtantly related to the Nabob's father and mother; but the far greater number were people who originated from very low characters.

Were they not perſons who in that way had made their fortunes, and who were rewarded by the Nabob for their real or ſuppoſed ſervices?

I cannot ſay what their merits might be—I believe many of them had never done the Nabob any ſervice whatever.

In what ſituation were they left, upon the reſult of taking away their eſtates?

It created, very naturally, much diſguſt among them—they complained they were much diſtreſſed by it.

What was the condition of the Begums upon the reſumption of their Jaghires?

They were ſo much reduced by the loſs of their Jaghires, as to be under a neceſſity of diſbanding their guards and ſervants, and of diſpoſing of their valuable jewels, clothes, &c.

Do you know any thing of the ſeizure of their treaſures?

I know no further than that the eunuchs before mentioned were put into confinement; and that guards were placed over their palaces.

Was you at Fyzabad, or Lucknow, at that time?

At Lucknow.

Was you there when the eunuchs were brought priſoners to Lucknow?

I was.

What treatment did they ſuffer at Lucknow?

Every indignity poſſible, to make them betray the confidence which was the natural reſult of their ſituation.

Did they, or did they not, receive any corporal puniſhment?

They did not, to my knowledge.

How

How was the treatment of the eunuchs received by the public in that city and country?

It made a very bad impreſſion upon people in general.

Were thoſe eunuchs turbulent men, who were ſuſpected of attempting a revolution in the ſtate?

I never underſtood they poſitively were; but it was very natural for them to become diſaffected to the adminiſtration at the Nabob's court, when they found the country of their late maſter ſo much declining under its influence.

Did you hear that they actually inliſted and recruited men for the purpoſe of ſubverting the Britiſh power in India, and for extirpating the Engliſh nation?

I never did; nor was it in their power to recruit men to effectuate ſuch a purpoſe. I believe they, as well as all men under their circumſtances and ſituation, who poſſeſſed the ſpirit and feelings of men, would have extirpated us, if in their power.

Was it their particular diſpoſition, or was it general throughout the country?

I believe that the diſpoſition of the natives collectively, for ſome years back, but more eſpecially thoſe in the provinces in the diſtricts of Baraich and Boorapoor, where the rebellion prevailed, owing to the oppreſſion they had recently experienced, were diſaffected to our government; and for this reaſon—they had been almoſt ruined by the rapacity and conduct of an Engliſh collector in that country, the effects of whoſe meaſures preſented themſelves, from one end to the other of it, in deſerted villages and uncultivated tracts of land, which had been a garden but a very ſhort time before; and it was the public talk, and had been well known to every gentleman in that country, that a battalion of ſepoys, under the command of Captain Naylor, was ſent to quell the ſedition in the country; and with that ſmall force he did ſettle the country; and, with the officers of his detachment, did report, that the diſaffection and aſſembly of troops for the purpoſe of driving Colonel Hannay out of the country, was owing to unheard-of oppreſſions on his part.

In what year did that rebellion happen?

They took the advantage of the troubles at Benares to ſhew their reſentment, in 1781.

At what time was that inſurrection got under?

In a very ſhort time after—In the courſe of two or three months.

Was there any reaſon to believe that the Begums had formed a regular plan, in conjunction with other powers, for the extirpation of the Engliſh?

A plan

A plan of that nature was too abſurd to be believed by a gentleman who knows the poſition of affairs in that country at that time.

What was the condition of the Zemindars in that country when you knew it firſt, and when you laſt knew it—meaning the old Hindoo landholders of all kinds?

The old Rajahs or Zemindars of the country had, previous to the death of the late Vizier Sujah Dowlah, been in a very declining way. It was not an uncommon practice of his to appoint an Aumil over a conſiderable diſtrict of thoſe ancient Rajahs and Zemindars, whom he always wiſhed to keep as dependent upon the court as poſſible. The Hindoo cultivators of the lands are very much attached to their princes, theſe Rajahs, and frequently, at their inſtigation, took up arms to oppoſe the Aumil in his collections, which gave him an opportunity, upon getting the better, to plunder them; and which the Vizier, their maſter, encouraged, in order to become ſecond plunderer over the Aumil.

Has that condition been mended in the preſent reign?

It has not.—There is ſcarcely a Rajah or Zemindar of any conſequence now in the whole Subadarry. All contracts for the farming of the different diſtricts are made with the miniſter, at Lucknow; who, upon ſettling with the Aumil what he is to pay, takes him to the Vizier his maſter, where he receives an honorary dreſs, and is diſmiſſed to make the beſt of his government, which in general he holds only for one year. He therefore goes, without conſulting the princes of the country, and makes his own terms and ſettlements with the tenants.

Whether moſt of theſe countries have not been given over in Aſſignments to the Engliſh Reſident?

They have, for public ſervice and arrears of demand.

Have you ever heard that the Engliſh Reſident has interfered to protect the ancient Rajahs and Zemindars from the ill treatment of the farmers of the revenue?

I do not doubt but they have, on many occaſions.

With what ſucceſs?

I cannot poſitively ſay.—The ſyſtem of finance adopted by the miniſter was probably of ſuch a nature as to put it, in a great meaſure, if not wholly, out of their power to rectify any abuſe committed by the Aumils. The different reſidents at Lucknow, ſince the acceſſion of the preſent Nabob, I believe to be men of the greateſt integrity and honour; and that they would, had it been in their power, have remedied many of the evils committed there.

Whether you know any inſtances of their interference for that purpoſe?

I can-

I cannot ſay I do.—It would probably have been incompatible with their endeavours to realize their aſſignments.

Was you at Lucknow when Sir Elijah Impey arrived there?

I was.

What was the opinion of his errand thither?

I really cannot preſume to ſay.

How long did Sir Elijah Impey ſtay there?

To the beſt of my memory, about a month; but I do not at all recollect.

In what manner was he employed while he was there?

I am a ſtranger to it.

Did you hear that he took any affidavits while there?

And the queſtion being objected to;

The witneſs was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

The queſtion was repeated.

I have heard ſo; but do not know that he did.

Do you know the ſtate of the Duabe?

It is a very conſiderable tract of country.

The queſtion means, that part that is under the Vizier's government?

I do.

How long have you known it? and what is the comparative ſtate of it, between the time when you firſt knew it and the preſent time?

I have known it ever ſince the year 1776; and it is a country liable and open to the invaſions of the Mahrattas, from which it had ſuffered very conſiderably, previous to the Vizier's making an acquiſition of it. Since that period, the mode of finance adopted by Hyder Beg Cawn has doubtleſs been the means of reducing the country.

How long is it ſince the laſt invaſion of the Mahrattas?

To the beſt of my remembrance, between nine and ten years.

Might it have improved ſince, under a good government?

There is great room for improvement all over the poſſeſſions of the Vizier.

Do you know the Zemindary of Benares?

I do—having ſurveyed all through it.

What was the ſtate of it when you firſt knew it?

I firſt knew it in 1769, when it was an appendage to the Subadarry of Oude, and governed by Bulwant Sing, the father of the late Rajah Cheyt Sing: it was at that period, and indeed till the expulſion of the late Rajah, in a very flouriſhing ſtate.—The police of Benares and Jehanpoor was under

under the management of a Cutwal or civil magiſtrate, put in by the Subah of Oude, and was very defective. Theſe two principal cities were much infeſted by gangs of banditti and robbers, and frequent murders were the conſequence of theſe depredations; and till the appointment of Mr. Thomas Graham, whoſe exertions to eſtabliſh a good police, and to put an end to theſe enormities, deſerve the greateſt commendation; for, by his unremitting care and attention, he put almoſt a total ſtop to it.

What was the ſtate of the cultivation of the province of Benares in general?

The province of Benares was exceedingly populous and well cultivated, and the manufactures flouriſhed.

Did this continue until Cheyt Sing was depoſed?

It did—But he was not equal to his father in the government of that country.—And here I think it but juſtice to Mr. Haſtings to obſerve, that the title we derive, in conſequence of the transfer made to the Engliſh by the Vizier of that Zemindary, and from the nature of the Rajah's ſituation and dependance on his former and preſent maſters, that Mr. Haſtings was juſtified in calling upon him to ſupply the ſum of £.50,000 annually, when the preſſing exigencies of the ruling ſtate demanded ſuch aid.

Did you obſerve any thing, when you was in the country, of a deſign of Cheyt Sing to ſhake off his dependance on the Engliſh government?

I did not.

In what year was you laſt there?

In October 1782.

Did you obſerve any difference in the country, from the time that Cheyt Sing was depoſed to that period?

I did; I believed it to be declining very much.

Were the people as well ſatisfied with the new government as the old?

Doubtleſs they were not.

To what do you attribute the difference?

To the uncertainty they at preſent labour under who are to be the governors, as the preſent ſyſtem is liable every day to change.

Then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

And being called in again, he was aſked;

When was you laſt in the Boorapoor and the Baraich diſtricts?

In 1776.

Do you know when Colonel Hannay was appointed to the command in thoſe diſtricts?

I cannot preciſely ſay, but it was in 1778 or 1779.

Have you ever been in thoſe diſtricts ſince 1776?

I have

I have never been in the diſtricts ſince, but I have been bordering on them.

Can you ſtate to the Committee, what the annual amount of the revenues of thoſe diſtricts were, for any length of time, paid into the Nabob's treaſury, previous to Colonel Hannay's appointment?

I cannot.

Can you ſtate to the Committee, what the annual amount of the revenues was during the time Colonel Hannay had the command there?

I cannot tax my memory with it, nor do I know what they were.

Have you ever heard or underſtood any thing of the amount of thoſe revenues, during the time before mentioned?

I do not remember I have.

Can you ſtate to the Committee, what thoſe revenues have produced annually ſince Colonel Hannay's laſt removal?

I cannot; for ſoon after he left the country, I left it myſelf.

Was you perſonally acquainted with the late Colonel Hannay?

I was acquainted with him for many years.

What was the late Colonel Hannay's general character in the ſervice?

I never heard any thing againſt his character. Previous to his appintment to the command in that country, he bore the character of a gentleman, and a deſerving officer.

Had the late Colonel Hannay the reputation of being avaricious, cruel, or rapacious?

I never heard one diſſenting opinion of his being ſo, after his adminiſtration in that country. It was the public talk at Lucknow, on the ſpot, and in ſhort all over the province of Bengal.

At what time did you return from India to this country?

About the middle of the year 1783.

After your arrival in this country, was you called upon to give evidence before the Select Committee of the Houſe of Commons, ſitting at that time on India affairs?

I was not.

Had you any communication, directly or indirectly, with any of the members of that Committee, about that time?

I cannot ſay, for I do not know who the members of the Committee were.

Did you ever hear, or underſtand, that the late Colonel Hannay was at any time, and at what time in particular, accuſed of the groſſeſt peculation in India?

I cannot exactly ſay.

And the queſtion being repeated;

The witneſs ſaid;

I have heard that he was guilty of abuſes in the country; but I never heard of a formal accuſation againſt him.

Do you mean then to ſay, that the late Colonel Hannay was never publicly accuſed?

I cannot mean to ſay any ſuch thing.

By whom, and before whom, was Colonel Hannay ever accuſed?

I have before obſerved, that it has been the public topic of converſation on the ſpot, and at other places; but I never knew of any formal or official accuſation againſt him.

Did you ever hear of any public accuſation againſt him, which warranted the charge of his being a groſs peculator?

I have heard many of the natives on the ſpot ſpeak of the oppreſſions thoſe diſtricts laboured under, and that the country was, from his miſconduct, rendered quite a deſart.

Then the queſtion, firſt entered on theſe Minutes, in this day's examination, was again put to the witneſs.

To which he ſaid,

I muſt beg leave, if it is not improper, as to any thing regarding this private claim, not to anſwer any further queſtions concerning it.

Then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Motion made, and queſtion propoſed, that the witneſs be again called in; and that the Chairman do acquaint him, that the Committee expect that he ſhould give an anſwer to that queſtion.

And the queſtion being, with leave of the Committee, withdrawn;

The witneſs was again called in, and was aſked;

What officer commanded in Rohilcund when you was there in 1780?

Major Belſour.

Was you in Rohilcund in any other year beſides the year 1780?

I was not.

What time was you there in 1780?

Between two and three months.

Did you ever ſee a church in Rohilcund?

Great numbers—Places of worſhip, called Meſchids.

Were the ruins you ſaw in Rohilcund to all appearance old ruins?

They were not.

When

When you ſpeak of colleges, churches, baths, palaces, and other buildings, do you conceive they were deſtroyed between October 1774 and 1780, when you was there?

The major part of them I believe to be gone to decay ſince 1774.

Had you the permiſſion of the Governor General and Council to go to Delhi in 1780?

I had not. I had reſigned the ſervice, and looked on myſelf to be my own maſter.

When you reſigned the ſervice, in January 1779, had you permiſſion to remain in Oude for an indefinite time, or to go to any part of the country you pleaſed?

I reſigned the ſervice upon the expreſs condition, that the Governor General and council ſhould permit me to remain at the court of the Vizier, until the whole of my demand upon him ſhould be liquidated; and, contrary to all former precedents, which compelled any officer who propoſed to reſign the ſervice to go down to the Preſidency for that purpoſe, I was ſuffered to reſign my commiſſion at the court of the Vizier.

The permiſſion which you had being to continue at Oude, had you any permiſſion to go to the court of Delhi?

I did not apprehend I required any; for when I found that I was not likely to receive my dues from the Vizier, I took the opportunity of viſiting a part of the country I was before unacquained with.

Do you know what number of elephants the Nabob Vizier has, or whether he is not generally accompanied in his hunting parties with a numerous and ſplendid court?

I do not exactly know; but he has not of late years been accompanied with ſuch large retinues as formerly attended him.

Is not the term, Burra Saheb, applied to the Reſident of Oude; and was it not applied to Sir Eyre Coote when he was at Oude?

It is uſually applied to the chief or head of any particular department.

Do you know whether the Bow Begum, in 1776, when ſhe paid 30 lacks to the Nabob, did not diſpoſe of ſeveral of her jewels and clothes?

I do not know.

Was it not generally ſuppoſed, at the time, that ſhe had a large ſum of money in her poſſeſſion?

I have heard ſhe had.

Have you ever heard it eſtimated by Mr. Briſtow, or any other perſon, who might be ſuppoſed to have information on the ſubject, at 170 lacks, or thereabouts?

I do not recollect that I have.

When you commanded the regiment in the Vizier's ſervice, have you never heard complaints of Jewar and Behar Ali Cawn, the two eunuchs of the Begums, from Mr. Briſtow, or others?

I do not remember that I ever did.

Is it not cuſtomary in Indoſtan for eunuchs to hold offices of truſt and importance in the ſtate?

It is.

Do you remember one of Sujah Dowlah's general officers, Cojah Buſſan, a eunuch?

I do.

Did he not put to death the preſent Vizier's miniſter, Mirtoza Cawn; and was he not afterwards killed in attempting to aſſaſſinate the Vizier?

It happened at Etoiah, when I was there: he was ſuppoſed to have aſſaſſinated the miniſter, but I do not believe he had ever any intention to aſſaſſinate his maſter the Vizier.

Were not the Cutwalls, or magiſtrates, of Jehanpour and Benares, Mahomedans?

They were.

In what years was you in Benares?

At different periods, from 1769 to the end of 1782.

Have you never heard Mr. Graham or Mr. Fowlke mention the diſaffected condition of Cheyt Sing?

I have not.

Were the Jaghires granted to the Bow Begums by Sujah Dowlah, or the preſent Vizier?

The Bow Begums had an addition, and a conſiderable one, by the preſent Vizier.———I beg to add to my laſt anſwer—but, if I remember right, I have heard Mr. Graham ſay, that he found difficulties thrown in his way by the Rajah in ſettling the police of Benares; and I have underſtood he was refractory in regard to the demand made on him for the payment of the three battalions.

Is the preſent Vizier a man of abilities, and capable of managing well his country?

He by no means wants underſtanding; but, his abilities having never been put to the teſt, I cannot ſpeak to them.

Was his preſent miniſter, Hyder Beg Cawn, the Vizier's own choice, or was he forced on him by Mr. Haſtings?

I cannot ſay he was forced upon him by Mr. Haſtings, nor do I believe he was; but I believe the Vizier was frequently inclined to have taken his head off, if it had been in his power, on account of his miſconduct.

You have ſpoken of the oppreſſion of the Aumils on the Zemindars—do you mean to ſay, that thoſe oppreſſions have ever been countenanced by Mr. Haſtings?

I do

I do not mean to ſay any ſuch thing, for I do not know that they have.

Was the meaſure of appointing Engliſh officers to command the Vizier's troops carried into execution when Mr. Haſtings had a majority in the Supreme Council; or before the death of Colonel Monſon, when General Clavering, Colonel Monſon, and Mr. Francis had the majority?

I believe it to be in agitation previous to the death of the late Vizier; or rather, it had been in contemplation to have lent officers to the late Vizier before his death; and ſome did arrive at the court of Fyzabad, with expectation of being engaged in his ſervice; but no regular eſtabliſhment did take place till General Clavering had the majority.

Were they not all ſuppoſed to have been at General Clavering's appointment?

I cannot ſay; for my own part, I ſtand indebted to the general for that which I received.

And then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

To report a progreſs, &c.

MINUTES,

MINUTES, &c.

Jovis, 11° die Maij, 1786.

Committee of the Whole Houſe on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Miſdemeanors, preſented to the Houſe againſt Warren Haſtings, Eſquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

To authenticate certain Letters ſtated in the Charges, relative to the Princeſſes of Oude, their Miniſters, and Women.

CAPTAIN Leonard Jaques called in, and examined.

A Member preſent produced ſeveral papers, purporting to be copies of letters, or of extracts of letters, which he deſired might be ſeverally ſhewn to the witneſs; and that the witneſs might be aſked, Whether he wrote or received the letters, of which the papers now to be ſhewn to him purported to be copies, or from which ſuch extracts were made.

Then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

One of the ſaid papers was ſhewn to him; and the witneſs deſiring that it might be read to him,

The ſame was read, and is as follows, viz.

'To Richard Johnſon, Eſq. Reſident at the Vizier's court.

'SIR,

'The two priſoners under my charge, Bar Ally 'Cawn, and Jewar Ally Cawn, have repeatedly 'repreſented to me the hardſhips they ſuffer by their 'long confinement.

They

'They have this day informed me, of their being 'advised, in your letter, of a deficiency in the sale 'of the articles sent to Lucknow, as part of the sti- 'pulated sum to be sent by them.

'As the sum deficient has not been pointed out to 'them, they have requested I would write you for 'that purpose.

'Anxious to obtain their enlargement, they have 'likewise desired me to inform you, they will im- 'mediately, with the assistance of their friends, make 'up any deficiency that may have arisen.

'I have the honour to be,

'SIR,

'Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed) LEO. JAQUES, Capt^n
'Palace, Fyzabad, 2^nd Batt^n 20th Reg^t of Sepoys.'
'Feb. 23, 1782.

And then the witness was asked,

Did you write that letter?

To the best of my recollection, I wrote such a letter.—It is at such a distance, I cannot recollect every word; but I wrote a letter to that intent and meaning.

[Then another of the said papers was read to the witness, as follows, viz.]

'Captain Jaques, commanding at Fyzabad.

'SIR,

'I have been honoured with your letter of the '23d instant: and inclose an answer to a letter from 'your prisoners.

'I also send you an account of the money hitherto 'brought to their credit, which be so good as to ex- 'plain to them: That, by this statement, twelve 'lacks are yet due upon the fifty-five stipulated, 'against which the jewels and remaining bullion are 'yet to be set off, only estimated by themselves at 'seven; but as the sale of these will, in all appear- 'ance, far exceed the term of their agreement, it 'would be better that they should send money in- 'stead of them; in the mean time, you may assure 'them, that on the day their agreement expires, I 'shall be indispensably obliged to recommence seve- 'rities upon them, until the last farthing is fully paid 'of the agreement they have entered into. You may 'also mention to them, that I have reason to suspect 'that the commotions raised by Bulbudder has not

'been

'been without their ſuggeſtions and abetment;
'which, if proved upon them, in addition to the
'probable breach of their agreement, will make
'their ſituation very deſperate.

'The ignorance they have pleaded to you of the
'deficiencies in produce of the payments, is a vain
'pretext, as not one Sicca weight has been diſburſed
'without the previous knowledge of their agents
'here.

'Lucknow, (Signed) RICHARD JOHNSON.'
'27th Feb. 1782.

[Then another of the ſaid papers was read to the witneſs, as follows, viz.]

'Extract of a Letter from Captain Jaques to Mr. Johnſon, dated the 2d of March, 1782.

'I have, agreeable to your deſire, explained the
'contents of your letter to the priſoners Bar Ally
'Cawn and Jewar Ally Cawn, as likewiſe the ac-
'count; in anſwer to which they have requeſted me
'to inform you, that it will be intirely out of their
'power to tranſmit caſh in the room of the jewels
'already ſent, but that, when the jewels may be
'ſold, and a balance ſtruck of any deficiency ariſing
'from the ſale, they will, in the courſe of a few
'days, if permitted to go about among their friends,
'make up this deficiency.

'They poſitively deny having any hand in the
'commotions raiſed by Bulbudder, or that they carry
'on any kind of correſpondence, or have any inter-
'courſe with him or his adherents; ſo far from it,
'they have deſired me to acquaint you, it is their
'ſincere wiſh he was either taken or deſtroyed.'

Then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

And being called in again,

He was aſked,

Did you write the letter of which that is an extract?

I did.

[Then another of the ſaid papers was read to the witneſs, as follows, viz.]

'Richard Johnſon, Eſq. Reſident at the Vizier's court.

'SIR,

'The women belonging to the Khourd Mhal, com-
'plain of their being in want of every neceſſary of
'life,

'life, and are at laſt drove to that deſperation, that 'they at night get on the top of the Zenanah, make 'a great diſturbance, and laſt night not only abuſed 'the centinels poſted in the gardens, but threw dirt 'at them; they threaten to throw themſelves from 'the walls of the Zenanah, and alſo to break out 'of it.

'Humanity obliges me to acquaint you of this 'matter, and to requeſt to know, if you have any di-'rection to give me concerning it.

'I alſo beg leave to acquaint you, I ſent for Le-'taffit Ally Cawn, the Cojah, who has the charge 'of them; who informs me their complaint is well 'grounded. That they have ſold every thing they 'had, even to the clothes from their backs, and now 'have no means of exiſting.

'Incloſed I tranſmit you a letter from Monatoll on 'the ſubject.

'I have the honour to be,
'SIR,
'Your moſt obedient, humble ſervant,
(Signed) LEO. JAQUES, Captain
'Palace, Fyzabad, 2d Batt'n 20th Reg't of Sepoys.'
'March 6, 1782.

Did you write that letter?
I did.

[Then another of the ſaid papers was read to the witneſs, as follows, viz.]

'Richard Johnſon, Eſq. Reſident at the Vizier's court.

'SIR,

'I beg leave to addreſs you again concerning the 'women in the Khourd Mhal; their behaviour laſt 'night was ſo furious, that there ſeemed the greateſt 'probability of their proceeding to the utmoſt ex-'tremities, and that they would either throw them-'ſelves from the walls, or force the doors of the Ze-'nanah.—I have made every inquiry concerning the 'cauſe of their complaints, and find, from Letaffit 'Ally Cawn, that they are in a ſtarving condition, 'having ſold all their clothes and neceſſaries, and 'now have not wherewithal to ſupport nature; and, 'as my inſtructions are quite ſilent on this head, 'ſhould be glad to know how to proceed in caſe they 'were to force the doors of the Zenanah, as I ſuſ-

'pect it will happen, ſhould no ſubſiſtence be very 'quickly ſent to them.

'I have the honour to be,

'SIR,

'Your moſt obedient, humble ſervant,

'(Signed) 'LEO JAQUES, Capt[n]

'Palace, Fyzabad, '2[d] Batt[n] 20th Reg[t] of Sepoys.'

'March 7, 1782.

Did you write that letter?

I did.

[Then another of the ſaid papers was read to the witneſs, as follows, viz.]

'To Captain Leonard Jaques, commanding at Fyzabad.

'SIR,

'I have been honoured with your letters of the '6th and 7th inſtant, and have written to Meer Saed 'ul Dien, to urge the payment of the Tuncan of the 'Khoord Mehal; I have alſo requeſted the Nabob to 'ſend orders to this effect to that Aumil; and, as 'they are to be accompanied by a Sezawal, have no 'doubt of their immediate effect.

'As to the women of the Khoord Mehal going 'out, it cannot be a matter in which the Engliſh can 'interfere one way or the other.

'You will, in future, be pleaſed to correſpond with 'Mr. Middleton, who returned this day to his ſta-'tion.

'Lucknow, (Signed) 'R. JOHNSON.'

'March 9, 1782.

Did you receive that letter?

I did—but the names in this are differently ſpelt.

[Then another of the ſaid papers was read to the witneſs, as follows, viz.]

'Nathaniel Middleton, Eſq. Reſident at the Vizier's court.

'SIR,

'I am deſired by the two priſoners, Bar Ally 'Cawn and Jewar Ally Cawn, to inform you they 'have this day received a ſtatement of accounts from 'Mr. Johnſon, in which they ſay, that, excluſive of 'the jewels ſent as part payment of the ſtipulated 'ſum of fifty-five lacks of rupees, they are credited

'for

'for the ſum of forty-five lacks forty-five thouſand 'ſix hundred and one rupees.

'They earneſtly requeſt that the jewels may be va- 'lued by four or five eminent merchants, Muſſulmen 'and Hindoos, upon oath; and that, after this may 'be done, whatever balance may appear againſt 'them, they will immediately get their friends to ad- 'vance for them.

'They have likewiſe requeſted me to repreſent to 'you their diſtreſſed ſituation, in being ſo long and 'cloſe confined, with the hopes of your taking their 'caſe into conſideration, expediting the matter as 'much as in your power. They alſo requeſt me to 'inform you, the ſuſpicions Mr. Johnſon ſeems to 'entertain of them, reſpecting Bulbudder, is without 'foundation; that they have no kind of intercourſe, 'either directly or indirectly, with him; and that 'they ſtake their lives upon the moſt diſtant proof of 'it being brought; alſo, that it would give them 'great ſatisfaction to find he was either taken or de- 'ſtroyed.

'I have the honour to be,

'SIR,

'Your moſt obedient, humble ſervant,

(Signed) 'LEO. JAQUES, Captain

'Palace, Fyzabad, 2d Batt'n 20th Reg't of Sepoys.'

'March 13, 1782.

Did you write a letter to that purpoſe?

Yes.

[Then another of the ſaid papers was read to the witneſs, as follows, viz.]

'Captain Leonard Jaques, commanding at Fyzabad.

'SIR,

'I have received your letter of the 13th inſtant. 'The two priſoners, Behar and Jewar Ally Cawn, 'having violated their written ſolemn engagement 'with me, for the payment of the balance due to the 'Honourable Company, on the Nabob's aſſignments 'accepted by them, and declining giving me any 'ſatisfactory aſſurances on that head, I am under the 'diſagreeable neceſſity of recurring to ſeverities to 'enforce the ſaid payment. This is therefore to de- 'ſire, that you immediately cauſe them to be put in

' irons, and keep ſo until I ſhall arrive at Fyzabad, to ' take further meaſures as may be neceſſary.

' Lucknow, (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.'
' March 18, 1782.

Did you receive a letter to that purport?
I did.
[Then another of the ſaid papers was read to the witneſs, as follows; viz..]

' Nath'. Middleton, Eſq; Reſident at the Vizier's court.

' S I R,

' I was laſt night honoured with your letter of ' the 19th inſtant; and have, agreeable to your ' orders, put the priſoners Bahar Ally Cawn and ' Jewar Ally Cawn in irons.

' I have the honour to be,

' S I R,

' Palace, ' Your moſt obed' humble ſerv', ' March 21ſt, 1782. (Signed) ' LEO. JAQUES, Cap'. ' 2d Batt'n 20 Reg' of Sepoys.'

Did you write a letter to that purport?
Yes.
[Then another of the ſaid papers was read to the witneſs, as follows; viz.]

' Nath' Middleton, Eſq; Reſident at the Vizier's court.

' S I R,

' I am favoured with your's of the 27th inſtant; ' and cannot help informing you, that I think myſelf ' hardly uſed, in not being allowed ſo trifling a ' contingence as my bill with you is for; however, I ' am nevertheleſs obliged to you for letting me know ' what I have to expect, as I ſhall of courſe now diſ- ' charge all the extraordinary people, which my de- ' licacy and zeal for doing the duty I am upon, to the ' ſatisfaction of them who ordered me upon it, in- ' duced me to enter into. You will therefore con- ' ſider, Sir, that I cannot any longer pay women to ' examine the doolies from the Rhaſs and Khourd ' Mhals; of courſe none will be allowed to go out ' till I have your further directions how to proceed. ' Doolies unexamined will take out valuables, which ' my orders are poſitively againſt. Intelligence I can

' have

'have none, as no allowance will be made me for 'it; and, ſhould any accident happen, the blame 'will not be mine, but thoſe who are ſo ſparing of a 'trifle.

'I have been at ſome other trifling expences, ſuch 'as a Moonſey to read, write, and explain any letter to 'and from the priſoners, to and from Jerrour Sing, 'the Aumil of Nabob Gunge, and the Aumil of Oude, '&c. extra ſtationary, and not neceſſary, were I not 'on a ſeparate command; candles, oil, &c. for 'guards, which ſhould have no occaſion to ſupply, 'were it not for my command.

'The practiſing my people with ball cartridges, I 'am ſure, was abſolutely neceſſary, as fifty of my 'men were the utmoſt in number who had ever fired 'one until I came here: and I had every reaſon to 'believe, from the caution uſed by Major Naylor, 'when I relieved him, that I ſhould meet with trou-'ble; and, being only half his number, and no guns, 'it was ſurely my duty to have my people in the beſt 'condition to defend themſelves if occaſion required; 'and I am ſure the ſum charged by me for this is not 'half what it would have coſt the Company to have 'ſupplied my battalion from any of the magazines.

'You have alſo ordered me to put the priſoners in 'irons—that I have done; yet, as I have no bu-'ſineſs to purchaſe fetters, or ſupply them any other 'way, it is but reaſonable that you ſhould order me 'to be reimburſed. But why ſhould I add any thing 'more? A late commander at this place, I am told, 'draws near as many thouſands, monthly contin-'gencies, as my trifling bill is for hundreds. How-'ever, if you cannot get my bill paid, be ſo oblig-'ing as to return it, and give me an opportunity of 'declaring to the world, that I believe I am the firſt 'officer in the Honourable Company's ſervice who has 'ſuffered in his property by an independent com-'mand.

I have the honour to be,
SIR,
'Your moſt obedient
'Palace, Fyzabad, 'humble ſervant,
'March 30th, 1782. (Signed) 'LEO^d. JAQUES, Capt^n.
'Commanding at Fyzabad.'

Did you write a letter to that purport?
I did.
Did you tranſmit any letter to Mr. Haſtings, or the Go-
vernor

vernor General and Council, from Jewar and Behar Ally Cawn, or from yourſelf?

I do not recollect that I ever did, during my command, or on that buſineſs.

Under whoſe direction was you, while you had that command?

I was to receive my orders from the Reſident at the Vizier's court.—Mr. Middleton had occaſion to go away, and Mr. Johnſon acted for him.

By what authority did you underſtand Mr. Middleton and Mr. Johnſon to act, in giving you any directions in the courſe of that command?

And the queſtion being objected to;

The witneſs was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

He was aſked,

Why did you obey the orders of Mr. Middleton?

My immediate commanding officer in the regiment ordered me to march with my battalion, which was then lying at Lucknow, and put myſelf under the command of Major Naylor, who then commanded at Fyzabad—or to relieve him. I forget which; but I did relieve him. On my arrival at Fyzabad, the 8th of February, 1782, Major Naylor gave me inſtructions regarding the charge of the palace at Fyzabad, and the charge of the two eunuchs who were priſoners.

Did you receive particular directions to obey the orders of Mr. Middleton, and from whom?

I did.—I cannot be poſitive, but I believe I had orders from my immediate commanding officer at Lucknow to receive orders from Mr. Middleton; but I am ſure, on my arrival at Fyzabad, I had directions from Major Naylor to receive my orders from Mr. Middleton.

Did you conceive Mr. Middleton to be the repreſentative of the Governor General and Council?

I always underſtood that Mr. Middleton was the Engliſh Reſident at the Vizier's court at Lucknow.

What ſituation did you hold in the Company's ſervice?

I was a captain.

When did you ceaſe to hold that rank?

In 1784.

On what occaſion did you ceaſe to hold that rank?

I do not ſee that there is any occaſion for me to anſwer that queſtion.

And then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

The Committe was moved, that ſeveral papers might be read;

And the ſame were read accordingly. The firſt was as follows; viz.

'COPY

(*) ‘ COPY Tranſlation of a Letter from his Highneſs ‘ the Nabob Aſuf ul Dowlah, Subadar of Oude, and ‘ Vizier of the Empire, to Charles Purling, Eſq; Re- ‘ ſident at his Court, on the Part of the Eaſt India ‘ Company—an Incloſure in Mr. Purling's Letter to ‘ the Council General, dated Lucknow, 19th of No- ‘ vember, 1779.

‘ The friendſhip between the Honourable Com- ‘ pany, Mr. Haſtings, Governor General, Supreme ‘ Council, and myſelf, has not the leaſt ſhadow of ‘ diſunion; dominion, property, and honour, are ‘ but one and the ſame to us.

‘ The ſituation of my affairs, reſpecting the pre- ‘ ſent time, I informed Mr. Middleton of, both by ‘ writing and converſation, and I now proceed to ‘ lay the whole before you.

‘ During theſe three years paſt, the expence occa- ‘ ſioned by the troops in brigade, and others, com- ‘ manded by European officers, has much diſtreſſed the ‘ ſupport of my houſhold, inaſmuch that the allowance ‘ made to the ſeraglio and children of the deceaſed ‘ Nabob has been reduced to one fourth part of what ‘ it was, upon which they have ſubſiſted in a very ‘ diſtreſſed manner for theſe two years paſt. The ‘ attendants, writers, ſervants, &c. of my court, ‘ have received no pay for theſe two years; and ‘ there is at preſent no part of the country that can ‘ be allotted to the payment of my father's private ‘ creditors, whoſe applications are daily preſſing up- ‘ on me. All theſe difficulties I have for theſe three ‘ years paſt ſtruggled through, and found this conſo- ‘ lation therein, that it was complying with the ‘ pleaſure of the Honourable Company, and in the ‘ hope that the Supreme Council would make in- ‘ quiry from impartial perſons into my diſtreſſed ſitu- ‘ ation. But I am now forced to a repreſentation. ‘ From the great increaſe of expence, the revenues ‘ were neceſſarily farmed out at a high rate, and ‘ deficiencies followed yearly; the country and cul- ‘ tivation is abandoned; and, this year in particular,

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(*) Read from No. 7 of the Appendix to the Tenth Report of the Select Committee appointed to take into Conſideration the State of the Adminiſtration of Juſtice in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, &c.; which Number is entitled, “ Proceedings of the Go- “ vernor General and Council, of the 13th and 15th December 1779, “ relative to the Vizier.”

‘ from

'from the exceſſive drought of the ſeaſon. Deductions of many lacks have been allowed the farmers, 'who were ſtill left unſatisfied, and I have received 'but juſt ſufficient to ſupport my abſolute neceſſities; 'and for this reaſon, many of the old chieftains, 'with their troops, and uſeful attendants of the 'court, were forced to leave it; and now there is 'left only a few foot and horſe, for the collection of 'the revenues; and, ſhould the Zemindars be refractory, there is not left a ſufficient number to reduce them to obedience of my collectors. The late 'raiſed brigade at Futta Ghur is not only quite uſeleſs to my government, but is moreover the cauſe 'of much loſs, both in the revenues and cuſtoms; 'the detached bodies of troops under other European officers bring nothing but confuſion to the 'affairs of government, and are entirely their own 'maſters.

'In this diſtreſſed ſtate of my affairs, it is juſt and 'requiſite that Mr. Haſtings, General Sir Eyre Coote, 'and the Supreme Council, ſhould give me relief. 'This year I cannot poſſibly provide for the new 'brigade at Futta Ghur, the corps of horſe, and 'other detached bodies of troops in my country. I 'hope you will conſider well theſe repreſentations, 'and explain them in a manner you may judge proper to the Governor General and Supreme Council. '—On my part, country, property, and life, are 'devoted to the will of the Honourable Company.— 'I hope you will therefore do juſtice to theſe my complaints, and prevent my falling into diſtreſs by not 'having wherewith to ſupport the neceſſary expences 'of my houſehold. For the expence of the brigade 'at Caunpoor, and other diſburſements, I have given 'Tuncaws and orders upon my country; the remainder of my revenue, on account of the drought, 'has fallen ſo ſhort, as not to be ſufficient for my neceſſary expences, being deficient to the amount of 'fifteen (15) Lacks, and the above proviſion will 'bring upon me this year very great diſtreſs.—What 'can I ſay more?'

[Then an extract from a minute of the Governor General, entered in conſultations of 29th September, 1783, was read (*); and is as follows; viz.]

(*) Read from a paper, entitled, "Extract from papers (in No. 2. "Vol. III) preſented to the Houſe of Commons, on the 13th day "of March, from the Eaſt India Company, and ordered to be "printed on the 16th of March 1786."

'It

'It may afford a triumph to Mr. Briſtow, to have 'ſuch a proof of "the unprincely ſtile of the un-"happy Aſof ul Dowlah, oppoſed to the digniſied "idea of inſulted ſovereignty." But if there is a 'ſpark of generous virtue in the breaſts of any of 'my countrymen, who ſhall be the readers of this 'compilation, this letter ſhall ſtand for an inſtru-'ment to awaken it to the call of vengeance againſt 'ſo flagitious an abuſe of authority, and reproach of 'the Engliſh name.'

[Then a minute of the Governor General, and alſo 'draft of a letter therein mentioned, was read (†); and is as follows; viz.]

'Governor General.—I underſtand the ſubſtance of 'the Vizier's letter to be a peremptory refuſal to 'grant aſſignments but for the expence of the regu-'lar brigade ſtationed at Cawnpore; a demand for 'the recal or reduction of the troops ſtationed at Ro-'hilcund for his ſervice in that diſtrict, and his new-'acquired dominions in the Douab, and for the diſ-'miſſion of the corps eſtabliſhed in his own imme-'diate ſervice, under the command of Britiſh offi-'cers, (viz. thoſe ſeverally commanded by Major 'Hannay, Captain Oſborne, and the body guard un-'der Captain Mordaunt) for the purpoſe of ſubſti-'tuting additional eſtabliſhments of horſe and foot, 'under his immediate command, for the ſervice of 'the revenues. Theſe demands, the tone in which 'they are aſſerted, and the ſeaſon in which they are 'made, are all equally alarming, and appear to me 'to require an adequate degree of firmneſs in this 'Board in oppoſition to them. Without further 'comment, I ſhall proceed to recommend the follow-'ing draft of a letter to be written to Mr. Purling; 'which, if agreed to, may ſerve as the ſubſtance of 'one to be written on the ſame ſubject to the 'Nabob.

'SIR,

'We have received your letter of the 19th No-'vember, ſtating the objections of the Nabob to the 'immediate diſcharge of the ſums due from his go-

(†) Read from the ſame Appendix (No. 7) to the Tenth Report of the Select Commitee, which is entitled, "Proceedings of the Go-"vernor General and Council, of the 13th and 15th December "1779, relative to the Vizier."

'vernment for the expences of the current year. 'The principle on which theſe objections are made 'appears to us ſo repugnant to the Nabob's engage- 'ments with the Company, and with the intimate 'connections of his intereſts and theirs, that we 'cannot heſitate a moment to declare them totally 'inadmiſſible; and as we have no doubt of the Na- 'bob's ability to furniſh the ſums abſolutely neceſſary 'for the ſervice of the year, we require you to repeat 'the demand in writing. To give weight and effi- 'cacy to your requiſition, we have judged it expe- 'dient to adviſe him, formally by letter, of your be- 'ing authoriſed to make it; and that we expect his 'ready and cheerful acquieſcence in it. In the pre- 'ſent circumſtances of his government and of ours, 'to diſband any part of the troops that we maintain 'for his ſervice, is a meaſure no leſs improper for 'him to ſuggeſt, than it would be for us to adopt. 'He ſtands engaged to our government to maintain 'the Engliſh armies, which, at his own requeſt, have 'been formed for the protection of his dominions; 'and it is our part, not his, to judge and determine 'in what manner, and at what time, theſe ſhall be 'reduced or withdrawn. But were it otherwiſe, this 'is not the time to propoſe it, when we are threat- 'ened with external dangers common to both, which 'require rather an augmentation than a diminution 'of the means which we poſſeſs for repelling them. 'That this gives us cauſe for the moſt alarming ſuſ- 'picions, ſince he cannot be ignorant that the Mah- 'rattas, our enemies, and the ancient enemies of his 'government and family, are in arms, and a war 'unavoidable. That, at ſuch a juncture, a propoſal 'for diſbanding any part of his forces cannot fail to 'encourage them to attack his dominions. That 'the advice of his miniſters, who have inſtigated him 'to make it, will, we perſuade ourſelves, appear to 'him as inſidious as it is dangerous; and that we 'hope he will diſmiſs them from his ſervice and con- 'fidence, as unworthy of both.

'We are, &c.

'Fort William,
'13th Dec. 1779.'

[Then

[Then an extract from the 11th Report of the ſaid Select Committee, pages 10 and 11, was read, and is as follows, viz.]

" When the knife," ſays he, " had penetrated to " the bone, and I was ſurrounded with ſuch heavy " diſtreſſes, that I could no longer live in expectations, " I wrote you an account of my difficulties.

" The anſwer which I have received to it is ſuch, " that it has given me inexpreſſible grief and affliction. I never had the leaſt idea or expectation, " from you and the Council, that you would ever " have given your orders in ſo afflicting a manner, " in which you never before wrote, and which I " could not have imagined.—As I am reſolved to " obey your orders, and directions of the Council, " without any delay, as long as I live, I have, agreeably to thoſe orders, delivered up all my private papers to him (the Reſident), that when he ſhall have " examined my receipts and expences, he may take " whatever remains. As I know it to be my duty " to ſatisfy you, the Company, and Council, I have " not failed to obey in any inſtance; but requeſted of " him, that it might be done, ſo as not to diſtreſs " me in my neceſſary expences, there being no other " funds but thoſe for the expences of my Mutfeddies, " houſehold expences, and ſervants, &c. He demanded theſe in ſuch a manner, that, being remedileſs, I was obliged to comply with what he " required. He has accordingly ſtopped the penſions " of my old ſervants for thirty years, whether ſepoys, " Mutfeddies, or houſehold ſervants, and the expences of my family and kitchen; together with " the Jaghires of my grandmother, mother, and " aunts, and of my brothers and dependants, which " were for their ſupport. I had raiſed 1300 horſe " and three battalions of ſepoys to attend upon me; " but, as I have no reſources to ſupport them, I have " been obliged to remove the people ſtationed in the " Mahals [diſtricts], and to ſend his people [the Reſident's people] into the Mahals; ſo that I have " not now one ſingle ſervant about me. Should I " mention to what further difficulties I have been " reduced, it would lay me open to contempt."

' In other parts of this long remonſtrance, as well ' as in other remonſtrances no leſs ſerious, he ſays, " That it is difficult for him to ſave himſelf alive: " That, in all his affairs, Mr. Haſtings had given full

" powers to the gentlemen here [meaning the Engliſh " Reſident and aſſiſtants] who have done whatever " they choſe, and ſtill continue to do it. I never ex- " pected that you would have brought me into ſuch ap- " prehenſion, and into ſo weak a ſtate, without writing " to me on any one of thoſe ſubjects, ſince I have not " the ſmalleſt connection with any body except your- " ſelf. I am in ſuch diſtreſs, both day and night, " that I ſee not the ſmalleſt proſpect of deliverance " from it, ſince you are ſo diſpleaſed with me as not " to honour me with a ſingle letter."

' In another remonſtrance he thus expreſſes ' himſelf :'

" The affairs of this world are unſtable, and ſoon " paſs away—it would therefore be incumbent on " the Engliſh gentlemen to ſhew ſome friendſhip for " me in my neceſſities. I, who have always exerted " my very life in the ſervice of the Engliſh, aſſigned " over to them all the reſources left in my country, " ſtopped my very houſehold expences, together " with the Jaghires of my ſervants and dependants, " to the amount of 9,898,375 rupees. Beſides this, " as to the Jaghires of my grandmother, mother, " and uncle, which were granted to them for their " ſupport, agreeable to engagements, you are the " maſters; if the Council have ſent orders for the " ſtopping their Jaghires alſo, ſtop them. I have " no reſources left in my country, and have no " friends by me, being even diſtreſſed in my daily " ſubſiſtence. I have ſome elephants, horſes, and " the houſes which I inhabit; if they can be of any " ſervice to my friends, they are ready. Whenever " you can diſcover any reſources, ſeize upon them; " I ſhall not interfere to prevent you. In my preſent " diſtreſs for my daily expences, I was in hopes that " they would have excuſed ſome part of my debt. " Of what uſe is it for me to relate my ſituation, " which is known to the whole world? this much is " ſufficient."

[Then the following extracts from the Governor General's ſaid Minute, entered in conſultations of 29th September, 1783, was read (*), and is as follows, viz.]

(*) Read from the papers before mentioned (in No. 2. Vol. III.) preſented to the Houſe on the 13th of March 1786, and ordered to be printed on the 16th of March 1786.

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'It made a part of a general injunction, to treat 'the Nabob with every poſſible delicacy, conciliation, and attention; and was written purely from 'the apprehenſion in the deficiency of the public 'funds not admitting the full payment of the Company's juſt claim, and the calls of his perſonal and 'neceſſary wants: and, may I add, without the hazard of drawing on myſelf a ſevere cenſure from 'ſuch of my conſtituents as ſhall think, that, in the 'time of their diſtreſſes, my firſt and excluſive care 'ſhould be given to their relief, than that of having 'authoriſed the deprivation of an unhappy prince, 'whoſe alliance had ſubjected him to a ſervile dependance on the power of this government, that it 'was my intention to preclude the operation of ſuch a 'plea, by directing that the Nabob's perſonal ſhare of 'his own finances ſhould be fully allotted to him, although the Company's debt remained wholly in balance. Let me be judged with candour. Our alliance has proved the extinction of his ſovereignty, 'and the impoveriſhment of his country and revenue; and it was but juſt to allow him the means 'of ſubſiſtence, if no more remained of the reſources 'of his inheritance.

'Such is the ſtate to which the Company's influence has reduced one, and the firſt of its allies; and 'ſuch the example held out to other princes of India, 'who may be tempted to enſnare themſelves in the 'ſame connection.'

[Then another extract from the ſame Minute was read (*), and is as follows, viz.]

'This is not a place, nor have I room in it, to 'prove what I ſhall here content myſelf with affirming, that, by a ſacred and undeviating obſervance 'of every principle of public faith, the Britiſh dominion might have, by this time, acquired the means 'of its extenſion, through a virtual ſubmiſſion to its 'authority, to every region of Indoſtan and Decan.

(*) Read from the paper laſt mentioned.

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'I am not ſure that I ſhould adviſe ſuch a deſign, 'were it practicable, which, at this time, it certainly 'is not; and I very much fear that the limited form- 'ation of ſuch equal alliances as might be uſeful to 'our preſent condition, and conduce to its improve- 'ment, is become liable to almoſt inſurmountable 'difficulties. Every power in India muſt wiſh for 'the ſupport of ours; but they all dread the con- 'nection.

'The ſubjection of Bengal, and the deprivation of 'the family of Jaffier Ally Cawn, though an effect of 'inevitable neceſſity; the preſent uſurpations of the 'rights of the Nabob, Wallar Jau, in the Carnatic; 'and the licentious violations of the treaty exiſting 'between the Company and the Nabob Nizam ul 'Dowla, though checked by the remedial interpo- 'ſition of this government; ſtand as terrible prece- 'dents againſt us. The effects of our connections 'with the Nabob Aſoph ul Dowlah had a rapid ten- 'dency to the ſame conſequences; and it has been 'my invariable ſtudy to prevent it, by the removal or 'reſtriction of every authority or influence, derived 'from our government, which interfered with his, 'and by the promiſe of whatever means I might 'poſſeſs for withdrawing that interpoſition of it, in 'the internal management of his affairs, which we 'exerciſed in the aſſignments made of portions of his 'revenue for the payment of the Company's debts, 'whenever he ſhould either have diſcharged them, 'or could afford a ſecurity for their payment. It is 'not unknown to the Members of the Board, who 'compoſed it in the beginning of the year 1781, how 'much it was my wiſh, even then, to return, on a 'new commiſſion, to the reſidence of the Nabob of 'Oude, provided I could be intruſted with powers to 'make ſuch an accommodation, for his finances were 'daily diminiſhing. The preſence of the repreſen- 'tative of our government enfeebled that of the Na- 'bob in its executive acts; and all the provinces of 'his dominions were gradually ſinking into decline, 'the reproach of which, even from our own coun- 'trymen, was caſt upon our government as the cauſe 'of it.'

[Then the following extract from Major Scott's evi- dence, taken before the ſaid Select Committee, re- ſpecting the Vizier's conduct to the Begums, and the con-

confederacy of the Indian States, was read (*), and is as follows, viz.]

'Being aſked, Whether it was not generally underſtood, that the officers in the Vizier's ſervice, and particularly the commanding officer in Oude, and other dependent provinces, enjoyed advantages beſides thoſe which aroſe from their military command? he ſaid, Yes; and great intereſt was made by all officers to get upon the Vizier's eſtabliſhment, as it was called.—Being aſked, In what thoſe advantages conſiſted? he ſaid, In extra allowances from the Vizier; and, as it has been generally ſaid and believed, but that he could not ſpeak it of his own knowledge, in having a concern in the collection of the revenues; and he thinks the Vizier himſelf has ſtated it to be a great grievance, and a reaſon why he wiſhed to have thoſe officers recalled.'

[Then the following extract from the Governor General's Narrative of the Tranſactions at Benares, was read (†), and is as follows, viz.]

'1ſt. The introduction to the agreement contains reaſons in ſupport of this article which are incontrovertible. The Vizier declares, that he is abſolutely unable to defray the expence of theſe troops. This plea alone, if the fact be admitted, will be allowed to be concluſive. But the Vizier urges our additional claim to this indulgence, and to every other in the power of our government to ſhew him, from the fidelity and attachment which he has invariably manifeſted to the Company, and which was remarkably exemplified in the late alarming conjuncture, when every art was employed to ſhake his conſtancy, and to engage him in meaſures which would have been productive of the moſt fatal conſequences.

'Theſe arguments, though confined to the rights and intereſts of the Nabob, will be allowed a complete juſtification of this engagement; but I have

(*) Read from No. 10 of the Appendix to the Tenth Report of the ſaid Select Committee.

(†) Read from No. 1 of the Appendix to the Supplement to the Second Report of the ſaid Select Committee.

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'others to offer in ſupport of it, affecting with equal 'force the intereſts and ſecurity of the Company. 'To whatever cauſes it may be attributed, it is cer- 'tain, that we do not reap thoſe advantages which 'we promiſed ourſelves, and which we at firſt de- 'rived from the inſtitution of the temporary bri- 'gade. The actual diſburſements of it have fallen 'upon our own funds; and we ſupport a body of 'troops, eſtabliſhed ſolely for the defence of the 'Nabob's poſſeſſions, at our own expence. It is 'true, that we charge the Nabob with this expence; 'but the large balance, already due from him, ſhews 'too juſtly the little proſpect there was of diſen- 'gaging ourſelves from a burthen which was daily 'adding to our diſtreſſes, and muſt ſoon become in- 'ſupportable, although it were granted that the Na- 'bob's debt, thus ſuffered to accumulate, might, at 'ſome future period, be liquidated. Our imme- 'diate wants are too preſſing, and our means of ſup- 'plying them too limited, to admit of ſuch a drain 'from our funds as is cauſed by the current diſburſe- 'ments of the temporary brigade, and their recal, 'on that ground alone, would be indiſpenſable. In 'ſhort, the exiſtence of this corps added conſidera- 'bly to a debt which might never be realized, and 'intolerably to our current expences. The diſſolu- 'tion of it, in an œconomical light, will advance 'one great object of my journey, which was to ob- 'tain inſtant relief to our pecuniary diſtreſſes; which 'this meaſure will ſubſtantially effect, as ſoon as the 'reduction of the corps withdrawn from the ſtations 'of Futty Gur and Daranaghur takes place.

'Should the Nabob find his own ſtrength unequal 'to the defence of his remote dominions, and again 'require our aid for that purpoſe, we ſhall have a 'right to preſcribe our own terms, and may ſecure 'the certain and regular payment of the troops, in- 'ſtead of receiving a fallacious credit, and making 'the actual expenditure our own.

'Notwithſtanding the great benefit which the 'Company would have derived from ſuch an aug- 'mentation to their military force as theſe troops 'conſtituted, ready to act on any emergency, pre- 'pared and diſciplined without any charge on the 'Company, as the inſtitution profeſſed, until their 'actual ſervices ſhould be required, I have obſerved 'ſome evils growing out of this ſyſtem, which, in 'my opinion, more than counterbalanced thoſe ad-

'vantages,

'vantages, had these been realized in their fullest 'effect. The remote stations of those troops placing 'the commanding officers beyond the notice and con-'trol of the Board, afforded too much opportunity 'and temptation for unwarrantable emoluments, 'and excited the contagion of peculation and rapa-'city throughout the whole army. A most remark-'able and incontrovertible proof of the prevalence 'of this spirit has been seen in the court martial 'upon Captain Erskine; where the court, com-'posed of officers of rank and respectable characters, 'unanimously and honourably "most honourably," 'acquitted him, upon an acknowledged fact, which, 'in times of stricter discipline, would have been 'deemed a crime deserving the severest punishment.

'In a political view, the removal of these stations 'will be of important advantage, by contracting our 'frontier, and adding to our interior security and de-'fence.

'I request that the Board will take these arguments 'into their serious consideration; and, if they are 'pleased to allow them that weight which they had 'in actuating my conduct, that they will consult the 'Commander in Chief upon the reduction and distri-'bution to be made of the corps in question, that 'they may not remain an unnecessary burthen upon 'our funds; and upon such a disposition of the army 'in general, as may be suitable to our present and 'future situation, in every probable variation of it, 'both foreign and domestic.

'With respect to the removal of the Company's 'servants, civil and military, from the court and 'service of the Vizier, I was actuated solely by 'motives of justice to him, and a regard to the ho-'nour of our national character. In removing those 'gentlemen, I diminish my own influence, as well 'as that of my colleagues, by narrowing the line of 'patronage; and I expose myself to obloquy and 'resentment from those who are immediately affect-'ed by the arrangement, and the long train of their 'friends and powerful patrons. But their numbers, 'their influence, and the enormous amount of their 'salaries, pensions, and emoluments, were an into-'lerable burthen on the revenues and authority of the 'Vizier, and exposed us to the envy and resentment 'of the whole country, by excluding the native ser-'vants and adherents of the Vizier from the rewards 'of their services and attachment.'

[Then the following extracts from the Governor General's Minute, entered in Bengal Public Consultations of 22d May, 1780, were read (*) and are as follows; viz.]

'The Nabob Miezufta Jung, of Furruckabad, 'having preferred frequent complaints to this govern- 'ment of the hardſhips and indignities to which he 'is ſubject, by the conduct of the Sizawaul ſtationed 'in his country for the purpoſe of receiving the an- 'nual tribute, which he is bound by treaty to pay to 'the Soubah of Oude; I am extremely deſirous, as 'well from motives of common juſtice, as due regard 'to the rank and ſituation which that chief holds 'among the princes of Hindoſtan, that ſom emeans 'may be deviſed of affording him relief, but without 'withdrawing that local interference in his affairs, 'which I underſtand to be indiſpenſably neceſſary 'for the realizing the Vizier's juſt claims upon him.'

'That the country of Furruckabad is become 'almoſt an entire waſte, without cultivation or 'inhabitants; that the capital, which but a very 'ſhort time ago was diſtinguiſhed as one of the 'moſt populous and opulent commercial cities in 'Hindoſtan, at preſent exhibits nothing but ſcenes 'of the moſt wretched poverty, deſolation, and mi- 'ſery; and that the Nabob himſelf, though in the 'poſſeſſion of a tract of country, which, with only 'common care, is notoriouſly capable of yielding 'an annual revenue of between thirty and forty 'lacks, with no military eſtabliſhment to maintain, 'ſcarcely commands the means of a bare ſubſiſtence. 'Should my ſentiments and wiſhes on this ſubject ac- 'cord with thoſe of the other members of the Board, I 'move that one of our civil ſervants be forthwith ap- 'pointed collector of the Vizier's aſſignment to the 'Company on the Nabob of Furruckabad, with the 'ſame allowances and the ſame powers as may have 'been given to the native Sizawaul; and that he be 'ordered to proceed with all poſſible expedition to 'Lucknow, where he will be inveſted by the Reſi-

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(*) Read from paper, entitled, "Extracts from Papers (in No. 5) "preſented to the Houſe of Commons upon the 2d of March, from "the Eaſt India Company, and ordered to be printed on the 9th of "March 1780."

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'dent with the charge of that office, and receive 'from him the neceſſary inſtructions for his conduct 'in the diſcharge of it.'

[Then the following extracts of a letter from Mr. Willis to the Honourable John Macpherſon, Governor General, entered in Bengal Secret Conſultations of 28th June, 1785, was read (*), and is as follows, viz.]

'I will now, Honourable Sir, acquaint you with 'the ſtate of the diſtrict ſtill dependent on the Na- 'bob Muzuffer Jung; a knowledge of which will 'clearly evince, that, without a reſtoration of the 'the whole, or a part of the country claimed by the 'Nabob, or without there be a remiſſion of the tri- 'bute to the Vizier, neither cavalry nor infantry can 'be maintained. The ſituation of the Nabob and 'his country is more diſtreſsful than when he ad- 'dreſſed himſelf for relief in 1783; and I am ſorry 'to ſay that my appointment at Furruckabad has 'been of no advantage. In juſtification of myſelf, I 'think it neceſſary to acquaint you, that, by a letter '(No. 4) from the Governor General, when at 'Lucknow, I was prohibited from interfering in the 'executive management; and, by a ſubſequent or- 'der, I was made liable to diſmiſſion by his Excel- 'lency the Vizier. This at once precluded the poſſi- 'bility of my appointment being beneficial to the 'country.

'By the laſt treaty, which the Vizier compelled 'the Nabob to ratify during his minority, the ſum 'of four lacks and a half is fixed as tribute or ſub- 'ſidy; and this to be paid from the unſequeſtered 'Purgunnahs. Theſe originally yielded about twelve 'lacks of revenue, but have ſince, yearly, been leſs 'and leſs productive. In the preſent year it is not 'probable there will be above five lacks; from which 'is to be deducted the expence of collecting. The 'tribute, therefore, cannot be fully paid; nor will 'there be any thing for the ſubſiſtence of the Nabob 'and family. Since my reſidence at Furruckabad, 'the tribute has been increaſed to five lacks (though, 'from the calamity of the famine, and other cauſes, 'the country was not equal to the defraying the pre-

(*) Read from the paper laſt mentioned.

'viouſly fixed demands). Almas Ally has taken the 'Purgunnah of Marara at a very inadequate rent; 'and his Aumils have ſeized many adjacent villages. 'The Purgunnahs of Cocutnow and Souje are con- 'ſtantly plundered by his people; the collection of 'the Gauts near Futty Ghur have been ſeized by the 'Vizier's Cutwal, and the Zemindars in four Pur- 'gunnahs are ſo refractory, as to have fortified them- 'ſelves in their Gurries, and to refuſe all payments of 'revenue. This is the ſtate of the Purgunnahs; and 'Furruckabad, which was once the ſeat of great 'opulence and trade, is now daily deſerted by its in- 'habitants; its walls mouldering away; without 'police, without protection, expoſed to the depreda- 'tions of a banditti of 2 or 300 robbers, who, night 'after night, enter it for plunder, murdering all who 'oppoſe them. The ruin that has overtaken this 'country is not to be wondered at, when it be con- 'ſidered that there has been no ſtate, no ſtable go- 'vernment, for many years. There has been the 'Nabob Vizier's authority, his miniſter's, the Reſi- 'dent's at Lucknow, the Sezawaul's, the camp au- 'thority, the Nabob Muzuffer Jung's, and that of 20 'Dewans, or adviſers. No authority ſufficiently 'predominant to eſtabliſh any regulations for the 'benefit of the country, whilſt each authority has 'been exerted, as opportunity offered, for temporary 'purpoſes.

'Such being the preſent deplorable ſtate of Fur- 'ruckabad, and its diſtricts, in the enſuing year it 'will be in vain to look for revenue, if ſome regula- 'tions, equal to the exigency, be not adopted. The 'whole country will be divided between the neighbour- 'ing powerful Aumils, the refractory Zemindars, and 'banditti of robbers; and the Patans, who might be 'made uſeful ſubjects, will fly from the ſcene of 'anarchy. The criſis appears now come, that either 'ſome plan of government ſhould be reſolved on, ſo 'as to form faithful ſubjects on the frontier, or the 'country be given up to its fate; and if it be aban- 'doned, there can be little doubt but that the Mah- 'rattas will gladly ſeize on a ſtation ſo favourable to 'incurſions into the Vizier's dominions, will attach 'to their intereſt the Hindoo Zemindars, and poſſeſs 'themſelves of forts, which, with little expence, 'being made formidable, would give employment, 'perhaps, to the whole of our force, ſhould it be 'ever neceſſary to recover them.'

MAJOR

MAJOR BALFOUR called in, and examined.

How long was you in the ſervice of the Eaſt-India Company?

Upwards of twenty years.

Did you ſerve under Colonel Champion in the Rohilla campaign?

I did.

Do you conceive that the Rohilla war was carried on with extraordinary circumſtances of cruelty?

I do not, by any means.

Were reports ſpread in the Engliſh camp that Sujah Dowlah had committed ſeveral acts of cruelty during that war?

There were reports ſpread; but I afterwards underſtood that there were no good foundation for them.—One notorious circumſtance was reported, that he had raviſhed a woman of rank, and that ſhe had ſtabbed him, and afterwards ſtabbed herſelf—that was generally believed.—I had afterwards an opportunity, by reſiding a long time in the country, to know that it was an abſolute untruth.

Were many towns or villages deſtroyed during the campaign?

On the army's firſt entering the country, there were ſeveral villages deſtroyed; but after our engagement with the Rohilla army, which happened eight days after our entering the country, I did not know of any villages being deſtroyed, nor of any towns at all being deſtroyed.

Were the inhabitants of the country, the huſbandmen and mechanics, prevented from following their occupations by the war, or were they diſturbed in their poſſeſſions?

On our firſt entering the country, the inhabitants fled on all ſides; but after the action with the Rohillas, in which Hafiz Rhamet was killed, and the Rohilla army defeated, I underſtood that the Vizier ſent out his own Aumils to protect the inhabitants, and encourage them in their peaceable occupations.

Was you at Lall Dang when the treaty with Fyzoola Cawn was concluded?

I was.

What number of Rohillas do you think were ordered to croſs the Ganges in conſequence of that treaty?

All thoſe who did not accompany Fyzoola Cawn to Rampoor were ordered to croſs the Ganges.

What number do you conceive they were who croſſed the Ganges?

I imagine, with men, women, and children, upwards of forty thouſand.

How

How many of thoſe were men in arms?

I conceive half of that number were men in arms.—Many of the women and children belonging to thoſe men had been ſent acroſs the Ganges before that time.

Did you march back through the Rohilla country after the treaty of Lall Dang?

I did; I firſt accompanied Fyzoola Cawn to his capital—I remained with him there for about ſix weeks, till he was eſtabliſhed in his Jaghire.

When you marched back to Oude, at the end of thoſe ſix weeks, what was the ſtate of the cultivation of Rohilcund at that time?

It was very much the ſame as at the time when we entered it, which was about eight months before—The conqueſt of the country might occaſion a temporary interruption to the cultivation of lands; but the Ryots were returning to the villages, and things were going on as formerly.

Was you in Oude when Sujah Dowlah died?

No—I left it a month before he died.

When did you command in Rohilcund?

I got the command there in March, 1778, and commanded there until April, 1781.

Was Barelli your head quarters at that time?

It was.

What was the ſtate of Hafiz Rhamet's family when you commanded in Rohilcund?

Such of them as reſided there (I cannot be certain how many of them) had houſes and gardens allowed them, ſuch as they choſe; and they were indulged with renting ſuch lands (ſmall villages) as they wiſhed to have for their own immediate convenience, for ſupplying their neceſſaries, at a lower rent than what other lands were uſually let for; and it was my particular inſtructions from the Reſident at the Vizier's court, to treat them with every reſpect and attention, and to ſee that the ſame was ſhewn to them by others.

Were they under confinement during any part of 1780?

Never in confinement, during any part of the time that I commanded in Rohilcund.

Are the principal towns in Rohilcund in ruins?

Not the towns—Many of the reſidencies of the Rohilla chiefs, from being uninhabited (by their expulſion from the country) were going to ruin; but I confine this entirely to their palaces.

Were not ſeveral magnificent buildings and moſques deſtroyed, in ſeveral towns in Rohilcund, by the Mahratta invaſions?

Many; being of a different religion, they made a point of deſtroying the moſques and places of Mahomedan wor-

ſhip

ſhip.—There was one very remarkable moſque at Nudjim-abad, the burial-place of Nudjim-ul-Dowlah, part of which had been inlaid with ſilver, and otherways richly ornamented, which was ſtripped of the ſilver, and otherways entirely defaced by the Mahrattas; and ſeveral other towns, in that part of the country, were deſtroyed in the ſame manner.

Do you recollect to have heard that Lieutenant Colonel Hannay was re-appointed to the command of Goruckpoor by the influence of Mr. Haſtings with the Vizier.

I never did. On the contrary, Colonel Hannay told me himſelf, that he owed his appointment to General Sir Eyre Coote. I recollect he ſhewed me a copy of a letter he had written to Sir Eyre Coote, complaining of a battalion of ſepoys being withdrawn from the ſervice (which was employed under his command in that country)—urges as a reaſon for troubling Sir Eyre Coote, that, having obtained the charge of the country through his means, he conſidered the General's credit concerned in his faithfully executing the engagement he had entered into with the Nabob, and truſted to his ſupport to enable him (Colonel Hannay) to perform them.—That letter was written in September, 1780.

Was you in the province of Benares during the inſurrection of Cheyt Sing?

I went with my regiment from the ſecond brigade at Cawnpore, and joined Mr. Haſtings at Chunar, whilſt he was there; and I was employed, during the reſt of the campaign, againſt Cheyt Sing.

Was you employed by Mr. Haſtings to take poſſeſſion of the city of Benares, after the retreat of Cheyt Sing?

I was employed to take poſſeſſion of Ramnagur, Cheyt Sing's palace, oppoſite to Benares; and, the day after my arrival at Ramnagur, finding that Cheyt Sing's troops had abandoned Benares, I ſent over a detachment and took poſſeſſion of it, of which I immediately adviſed the Governor General, and he approved of my having done ſo.

What orders did you receive from Mr. Haſtings, relative to your treatment of the inhabitants of Benares?

I received orders from Mr. Haſtings to ſend people into the city of Benares, to endeavour to relieve their minds from any apprehenſions they might be under, telling them, that he was coming there immediately himſelf, and to aſſure them of every protection and encouragement he could afford them. I afterwards received Mr. Haſtings's thanks for the attention I had paid to his orders, and for the care I had taken for preventing the inhabitants from being plundered or moleſted.

Do

Do you recollect any order having been iſſued for the burning of a village in the province of Benares, where ſome of our wounded ſepoys had been ſaid to have been killed?

I do not recollect any order being iſſued for it—I believe the village was burnt. The Europeans who were killed belonged to the detachment I came down with from Cawnpore.

Was it a conſiderable village in point of ſize and number of inhabitants?

It was a conſiderable village.—I cannot ſpeak as to the number of the inhabitants. When we paſſed through it, on our march down the country, the inhabitants fled from us; they were all in the intereſt of Cheyt Sing.—We encamped there.—The inhabitants had left the town, and we placed guards in every part of the village, to prevent any thing being touched. The next morning, when we marched, three or four Europeans were unfortunately left there, and the inhabitants returned and murdered them.

When was you laſt in the province of Benares?

In February 1782, ſoon after Cheyt Sing was drove out of the country.

Can you ſtate to the Committee, what time Colonel Hannay was firſt appointed to the command at Goruckpoor and Baraich?

In January 1778 he was appointed Commander of the troops there.

Do you know or have you heard what was the ſtate and condition of thoſe diſtricts, previous to Colonel Hannay's appointment?

I have underſtood (I never was in the country myſelf) that they were poſſeſſed by independent Zemindars, who were always refractory, and never paid any revenues but what they were compelled to pay by military force.

Can you ſtate to the Committee the annual amount of the revenues of the diſtricts, previous to Colonel Hannay's appointment, for any length of time?

I cannot—I never heard.

Do you know what revenue the diſtricts produced, during the time Colonel Hannay commanded there?

I do not.

Can you ſtate what they have produced ſince Colonel Hannay's removal from the command?

I cannot ſtate what they have produced, but I have heard they were in great confuſion, and produced but little.

Was you perſonally acquainted with the late Colonel Hannay?

Intimately ſo—I became acquainted with him in the beginning of 1767, and the ſtricteſt intimacy ſubſiſted between us from that time till the hour of his death.

What

What was Colonel Hannay's general character in the ſervice?

He was eſteemed a brave active officer; his private character was remarkably amiable; his friendſhip and acquaintance was courted by the moſt amiable people in the country, and he was beloved and reſpected by all who knew him.

Had Colonel Hannay the reputation of being avaricious, cruel, or rapacious?

Never, to my knowledge—quite the contrary.

Have you ever heard or underſtood that the late Colonel Hannay was at any time accuſed of the groſſeſt peculation in India?

I never heard it.

Do you include the women and children, that went before the main body of the Rohillas, in the number of forty thouſand, which you ſaid croſſed the Ganges?

No—there went ſome over before to Goſs Gunge, the country of Zabita Cawn, another Rohilla Chief, divided from Rohilcund by the Ganges only.

What number do you ſuppoſe the women and children, who went before the main body, to have amounted to?

I cannot ſay exactly, I ſhould imagine about 20,000.

What number of Rohillas appeared in arms before the battle?

We underſtood there were above forty thouſand men in arms.

How many were ſuppoſed to fall in the battle of the Rohillas?

Between two and three thouſand.

Were other chiefs known to be coming with reinforcements to Hafiz Rhamet, that did not actually join him?

I heard of none who were coming to join him.

What opinion do the natives of India, among whom you have reſided, entertain of Mr. Haſtings's humanity, good faith, and tenderneſs towards the people of Indoſtan?

A very favourable opinion of him; thoſe that I have converſed with, who had had an opportunity of ſeeing him, were very much attached to him.

As far as has come to your knowledge, what idea have the princes and the people of India of Mr. Haſtings's government, whether wiſe, able, and meritorious, or otherwiſe?

I never had an opportunity of knowing the opinion of the princes of the country, with reſpect to Mr. Haſtings's government: The Nabob's miniſters, and other people of rank whom I have converſed with, with the Nabob's brother Sâdut Ali, had a great opinion of Mr. Haſtings's conduct, and a reliance upon his faith.

Have you ever heard when the Rohillas firſt became poſſeſſed of the country called Rohilcund?

I cannot ſay exactly as to the year, but it was between 1740 and 1745, I believe.

Were the Rohillas cultivators of the ſoil or manufacturers, or were they only poſſeſſed of civil and military power?

They were only poſſeſſed of the civil and military power; the cultivators of the ſoil were the original inhabitants of the country—Hindoos.—The Rohillas are Muſſulmen.

Was it not generally underſtood, that the Rohillas, who croſſed the Ganges, immediately ſolicited protection under Zabita Cawn?

It was generally underſtood that they did—I know they did. —Many after that returned to Rohilcund, and lived there unmoleſted.

Do you believe that any Rohillas were put to death, except thoſe who fell in battle?

I never heard of one—I believe there were none.—When I was formerly aſked my opinion, whether there was any cruelty or barbarity in the war that was carrying on?—the priſoners and people during the time of carrying on the war, undoubtedly ſuffered great hardſhips, but not greater than what is uſually the caſe, in wars carried on by the native powers in that country.

Are not the Rohillas a particular clan or tribe, ſeparate from the other Muſſulmen in Indoſtan?

They are a particular clan, and not held in the ſame eſtimation that other Muſſulmen are.

Were thoſe forty thouſand ſoldiers, before the battle, all Rohillas, or were they in the habit of enliſting any military adventurers who offered themſelves?

They were in the habit of enliſting any adventurers that offered, when they made war; but on this occaſion, except a very few Patans from the diſtrict of Furruckabad, I believe they were all Rohillas.

Do you know what proportion of the ſixty thouſand Rohillas ſettled with Fyzoola Cawn?

About five thouſand of them.

Did you ſee any ſigns of military preparations at Benares, or in the neighbourhood, by Cheyt Sing?

The day before the troops reached Chunar, there was a body of between 2 and 3,000 men, horſe and foot, encamped on our road to Chunar. I marched to attack them, but they retired before I got to the place.—I afterwards ſaw great preparations at Pateeta, a fort of the Rajah's. At that place they attacked us, and we were obliged to reduce it regularly by carrying battering cannon againſt it. I afterwards went to Lutteeſpoor, where the Rajah had been encamped

camped himſelf, and where there was an appearance of a very large body of troops having been; but they had fled before I reached it: our troops were afterwards at Bidjeygur, which place ſtood out a ſiege of ſix weeks; and in it we found a great quantity of ammunition of all kinds, and a great quantity of grain, ſufficient for the garriſon for three or four years.

From all appearance, have you reaſon to believe that Cheyt Sing was meditating inſurrections at the time Mr. Haſtings viſited Benares?

Excepting from the fortreſs of Bidjeygur, I could not judge from any other appearances that he was.

Was it the opinion of the country, that the Begums of Oude afforded aſſiſtance to Cheyt Sing after his inſurrection?

I cannot ſpeak as to the opinion of the country; it was generally believed by thoſe whom I converſed with.

Was Cheyt Sing conſidered by the inhabitants of Benares as a great Zemindar dependant on Bengal, or as an independent prince?

By the people of the country he was conſidered as a dependant on Bengal—it was perfectly known.—I was in his country a long time.

What was the effect produced upon the people at Benares, by ſending people to them for the purpoſe of quieting their fears, and of informing them that Mr. Haſtings himſelf would ſoon come among them?

I publiſhed it by a public crier, and it ſeemed to give great ſatisfaction to the inhabitants, and they remained quiet in their houſes.—And the town of Ramnagur, where the Rajah's palace is, is alſo very large; the inhabitants had fled from it entirely the firſt day I arrived there. I remained there about ſix days, and in that time the greateſt part of them had returned.

Did Mr. Haſtings perform his promiſe, by going ſoon to Benares?

He did—he arrived there three days after he wrote me the letter.

How was he received, and what effect had his arrival there?

I was only there two days after his arrival—great numbers of the principal inhabitants came to wait on him immediately; and he treated them with great kindneſs, and diſmiſſed them with aſſurances of protection, in my preſence. What happened afterwards I cannot ſay.

Did the people of Benares appear to be ſatisfied with the aſſurances given them by Mr. Haſtings?

Thoſe that I ſaw, very much ſo.

And then the witneſs was directed to withdraw.

To report a progreſs, &c.

THE END.